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## ABSTRACT

This report provides a snapshot of Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) states' electronic initiatives and demonstrates states' commitment to expanding learning opportunities for their residents. The following five common objectives emerging from a review of state activities are listed: (1) to develop the economy and train the work force; (2) to reach residents who are underserved by traditional education programs; (3) to share state resources and use them more effectively; (4) to create "any time, any place" learning opportunities; and (5) to expand services to residents. A summary report of virtual campuses and virtual libraries in Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia is presented. (MES)

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## *Virtual campuses, virtual libraries in SREB states*

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This report provides a useful "snapshot" of Southern states' electronic initiatives and demonstrates states' commitment to expanding learning opportunities for their residents. States are responding in a variety of creative ways to the increasing demand for high-quality, convenient and accessible education and training outside of traditional classrooms. This summary describes the region's impressive efforts to meet this demand.

While state approaches are different and reflect different needs and priorities, five common objectives emerge from a review of state activities:

- develop the economy and train the work force;
- reach residents who are underserved by traditional education programs;
- share state resources and use them more effectively;
- create "anytime, anyplace" learning opportunities; and
- expand services to residents.

The *Electronic Campus* of the Southern Regional Education Board seeks to support these objectives and link state efforts. The *Electronic Campus* — with more than 2,000 courses, 35 degree programs and more than 200 participating colleges and universities from the SREB states — adds a regional dimension to the state initiatives. The *Electronic Campus'* addition of library services and the establishment of the Distance Learning Policy Laboratory can help states remove barriers to distance learning.

# A Summary Report of Virtual Campuses and Virtual Libraries in SREB States

| State    | Initiative(s)                                                                                                       | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Status                |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Alabama  | Alabama Virtual Library                                                                                             | The Alabama Virtual Library is designed to provide students, teachers and state residents with online access to essential library and information resources. Funding for start-up was provided during the 1999 legislative session. Funds will be used to license electronic databases and to support development of the Virtual Library. Funds also will be used for training.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Planned               |
|          | Participates in<br><i>Electronic Campus</i><br>Degree Programs: Yes<br>Courses: Yes<br>Library Services: Yes        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |
| Arkansas | ACCESS Arkansas                                                                                                     | ACCESS Arkansas is the initiative of the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges, Arkansas State University at Mountain Home and the Arkansas Department of Information Services. The initiative is designed to provide an alternate way to deliver higher education to any individual at any time; to provide professional development and technical training for faculty; and to provide technological support to institutions and students as a foundation for a Web-based educational system. Activities under way include faculty teams for developing or selecting, testing and recommending courses to be digitized. The initiative is planning training workshops for faculty and staff. Some courses are available. | Operational (limited) |
|          | Arkansas Digital Library                                                                                            | The Arkansas Digital Library would give Arkansas residents access to unique digitized materials. The University of Arkansas, in partnership with other Arkansas public two-year and four year institutions, would coordinate and manage the Digital Library. Services being considered include access to commercial databases, training and courier services.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Planned               |
| Delaware |                                                                                                                     | Courses and programs have been approved and will be included in the <i>Electronic Campus</i> in 1999-2000.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                       |
|          | Participates in<br><i>Electronic Campus</i><br>Degree Programs: Planned<br>Courses: Planned<br>Library Services: No |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |
| Florida  | Florida Virtual Campus                                                                                              | The Florida Virtual Campus was jointly created July 1, 1999, by the State University System and the Community College System; it replaces the Florida Postsecondary Distance Learning Institute. It is designed to establish a statewide "virtual university" offering distance learning courses, programs and services. The initiative is designed to be a full-service, "one-stop" shopping source for statewide distance-learning activities; the initiative will expand and serve students who cannot access traditional programs and services. More than 1,800 courses are available, and an online advising service (FACTS) is being tested.                                                                             | Operational           |
|          | Distance Learning Library Initiative                                                                                | The Distance Learning Library Initiative is a cooperative venture of the State University System, the Community College System and the State Library and is designed to serve the state's distance learning programs and students. The Distance Learning Library Initiative provides comprehensive access to various online databases, a reference and referral service (800 number), user training, document delivery via a statewide courier service, and full borrowing privileges at all 38 public institutions of postsecondary education.                                                                                                                                                                                | Operational           |
| Georgia  | Georgia Learning Alliance                                                                                           | Established in November 1998 by the University System of Georgia, the alliance is a partnership of the system's 34 institutions. The Georgia Learning Alliance is designed to promote educational opportunities for the traditional and nontraditional student; it serves as a "cyberspace meeting ground" for students and educators to locate and disseminate information about available courses and programs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Operational           |
|          | Georgia Learning Online for Business and Education (GLOBE)                                                          | GLOBE was established in July 1999 by the University System of Georgia. It is designed to increase the system's overall capacity; to give focus to and establish standards for deploying technology systemwide; to serve as a focal point for collaboration among institutions to serve the needs of Georgia businesses; and to serve as a "laboratory" for using technology.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Operational           |
|          | Georgia Virtual Technical Institute                                                                                 | Georgia Virtual Technical Institute is a new "virtual campus" established by the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education. The Georgia Virtual Technical Institute is designed to encourage the joint development of learning and assessment materials among its technical institutes and private entities. The institute also will enable learners to obtain formal recognition of skills and knowledge obtained outside traditional campus-based learning through assessment and certification of competency.                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Operational           |
|          | Georgia Library Learning Online (GALILEO)                                                                           | GALILEO is a statewide online-library arrangement that provides universal access for every student and faculty member in the University System. It is designed to increase the quality of teaching, research and service; to improve information services and support through the sharing of resources; to utilize more fully the PeachNet statewide connectivity; and to place the University System in the forefront of library information technology. GALILEO, which began in 1995, provides a full range of services and generally is considered the model for statewide online-library arrangements.                                                                                                                     | Operational           |

| State                                                                                                                                 | Initiative(s)                                                                                    | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Status           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Kentucky</b><br>Participates in<br><i>Electronic Campus</i><br>Degree Programs: No<br>Courses: Yes<br>Library Services: yes        | Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University                                                         | The Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University is designed to be a student-centered, technology-based system for coordinating the delivery of postsecondary education to Kentucky residents. It seeks to increase collaboration and to foster efficiency and effectiveness. The Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University serves as a clearinghouse for distance learning opportunities and opportunities to receive credentials based on competency. It is a single point of access to statewide student, library and academic support services. It uses distance learning opportunities provided by Kentucky colleges and universities and by institutions outside Kentucky to expand access and to upgrade work-force skills and professional development. | Operational      |
|                                                                                                                                       | Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual Library                                                            | The Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual Library will provide equitable access to library and information resources and services in support of Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University as well as the broader needs of state residents. It is designed to increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of resource-sharing among Kentucky's libraries. The Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual Library is designed to ensure universal access using the statewide telecommunications network, to increase access to electronic resources; to establish statewide licensing agreements; and to prepare students, faculty, staff and state residents to participate fully in today's information-based global economy.                                                 | Operational      |
| <b>Louisiana</b><br>Participates in<br><i>Electronic Campus</i><br>Degree Programs: No<br>Courses: Yes<br>Library Services: Yes       | Louisiana Online University Information System (LOUIS)                                           | LOUIS was created in the early 1990s to automate library holdings and to make them available to academic and public libraries statewide via the Louisiana Library Network and LaNet, the statewide telecommunications network. All have access to journal indexes and full-text articles. Twenty-four academic libraries, 66 public libraries (one library in each parish), the State Library and 20 public school libraries throughout the state use LOUIS and LaNet to access and update catalog information, to communicate and to access electronic resources via the Internet.                                                                                                                                                                        | Operational      |
| <b>Maryland</b><br>Participates in<br><i>Electronic Campus</i><br>Degree Programs: Yes<br>Courses: Yes<br>Library Services: No        | University of Maryland University College — Virtual University                                   | The University of Maryland University College, a separate unit of the University of Maryland System, has been a leader in distance education for more than 25 years. It offers many University of Maryland courses and degrees, in various delivery formats, to students worldwide. The University of Maryland University College — Virtual University supports several University of Maryland sites around the state and in the greater Washington, D.C., area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Operational      |
|                                                                                                                                       | Maryland Online                                                                                  | This community-college teleconsortium began offering courses in fall 1999. Several four-year colleges are collaborating in a 2+2 degree program.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Planned          |
|                                                                                                                                       | Maryland Digital Library                                                                         | The Digital Library will provide online access for state residents. Leading the initiative is the University of Maryland, College Park Library.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Planned          |
| <b>Mississippi</b><br>Participates in<br><i>Electronic Campus</i><br>Degree Programs: Yes<br>Courses: Yes<br>Library Services: Yes    | Mississippi Alliance for Gaining New Opportunities Through Library Information Access (MAGNOLIA) | MAGNOLIA, a statewide consortium, provides online databases for K-12 schools, public libraries, community colleges and university libraries in Mississippi. The steering committee oversees the operation of MAGNOLIA. All state funds for the project are dedicated to the purchase of databases and subscriptions to online materials.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Operational      |
| <b>North Carolina</b><br>Participates in<br><i>Electronic Campus</i><br>Degree Programs: Yes<br>Courses: Yes<br>Library Services: Yes | University of North Carolina System                                                              | The UNC system is finalizing its distance education strategy. The Distance Education Task Force reviewed a report and recommendations from PriceWaterhouseCoopers in July 1999. A Chancellor's Steering Committee has been established, and will meet in the fall.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Under discussion |
|                                                                                                                                       | North Carolina Virtual Learning Community                                                        | The North Carolina Community College System is planning for the North Carolina Virtual Learning Community. The system's 1999-2001 strategic plan, adopted by the State Board of Community Colleges in June 1998, provides a foundation for the Virtual Learning Community and focuses on meeting training and educational needs for workers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Under discussion |
|                                                                                                                                       | North Carolina Libraries for Virtual Education (NC LIVE)                                         | North Carolina Libraries for Virtual Education is an electronic library project of the state's libraries. It provides universal access to reference and research materials. North Carolina Libraries for Virtual Education includes four communities: the University of North Carolina Libraries, the Community College Libraries, the State Library and Public Libraries, and Independent College and University Libraries.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Operational      |
| <b>Oklahoma</b><br>Participates in<br><i>Electronic Campus</i><br>Degree Programs: Yes<br>Courses: Yes<br>Library Services: No        | Oklahoma Electronic Campus                                                                       | This Web site includes information about distance learning courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels offered by the state's colleges and universities. This program is open to all Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education institutions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Operational      |
|                                                                                                                                       | Oklahoma Library Technology Network                                                              | The Oklahoma Library Technology Network's mission is to increase the sharing of information among the state's libraries. This program is oriented primarily toward services to state government, K-12 schools and the public. The Oklahoma Library Technology Network, part of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, provides online services for Oklahoma learners of all ages, interlibrary loan services, and a statewide catalog that connects more than 500 Oklahoma libraries.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Operational      |
| <b>South Carolina</b><br>Participates in<br><i>Electronic Campus</i><br>Degree Programs: Yes<br>Courses: Yes<br>Library Services: Yes | South Carolina Partnership for Distance Learning                                                 | The partnership's purpose is to improve statewide access to all levels of education, from kindergarten to adult education, and to make training available. The partnership will promote cooperation among educational institutions, libraries, business and industry, and state agencies in South Carolina.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Planned          |
|                                                                                                                                       | South Carolina Virtual Library — Digital Information for South Carolina Users (DISCUS)           | DISCUS provides access to an electronic library of essential information. It includes public libraries and their branches, higher education institutions, public school districts, and public and private K-12 schools. It is managed by the South Carolina State Library.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Operational      |

| State         | Initiative(s)                                                                                                    | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Status      |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Tennessee     | Tennessee Virtual University                                                                                     | The Tennessee Virtual University is being discussed by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, the Tennessee Board of Regents, the University of Tennessee and the Renaissance Center, a private technology facility in Jackson. The Virtual University would provide "one-stop shopping" for academic programs offered by Tennessee's public higher-education institutions. It would include both credit and noncredit offerings in asynchronous delivery formats. The Renaissance Center would provide advising and training for faculty. | Planned     |
|               | Participates in<br><i>Electronic Campus</i><br>Degree Programs: Planned<br>Courses: Yes<br>Library Services: Yes | Tennessee Online Community College Consortium                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Operational |
|               |                                                                                                                  | Tennessee Electronic Library                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Planned     |
| Texas         | Virtual College of Texas                                                                                         | The Virtual College of Texas is a consortium of all accredited, public community and technical colleges in Texas. It includes 50 community college districts and the three colleges of the Texas State Technical College System. The Virtual College of Texas' basic strategy is to share distance learning resources among the member colleges. These resources include telecommunications infrastructure, courses and curricula, faculty, student services, and administrative support.                                                      | Operational |
|               | Participates in<br><i>Electronic Campus</i><br>Degree Programs: Yes<br>Courses: Yes<br>Library Services: Yes     | Texas Colleges On-Line                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Operational |
|               |                                                                                                                  | TexShare                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Operational |
| Virginia      | Electronic Campus of Virginia                                                                                    | The Electronic Campus of Virginia is an instructional-technology initiative among the state's public and private colleges and universities. It is designed to provide "one-stop" access to instruction available in a distance learning format. The Electronic Campus of Virginia offers credit and noncredit courses and programs at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels as well as continuing-education offerings designed for working adults.                                                                               | Operational |
|               | Participates in<br><i>Electronic Campus</i><br>Degree Programs: Yes<br>Courses: Yes<br>Library Services: Yes     | Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Operational |
| West Virginia |                                                                                                                  | West Virginia was a "charter" participant in the <i>Electronic Campus</i> . The state's colleges and universities are making available a number of courses and degree programs through the <i>Electronic Campus</i> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |             |

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